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## Democratic Woes

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The Democrats of New York are on a diet of a disaster day.

What is happening to them should be happening in New Hampshire, not in the biggest, richest state in the Union.

Said one disheartened campaign aide, "Every time we think we've reached bottom, something worse happens."

Their ticket is headed by two able men who are totally at sea in politics and who have not had time to do their homework on the issues.

Their standard-bearer, Robert M. Morgenthau, former U. S. Attorney, is so shy that one Democrat, who used to rate Averell Harriman as the most introverted candidate in New York history, said "Morgenthau makes Harriman seem like Billy Graham."

Their candidate for the Senate is James B. Donovan, the lawyer who arranged the Powers-Abel exchange and is currently engaged in negotiations for the release of the prisoners taken at the Bay of Pigs invasion, the most unhappy episode in Kennedy foreign policy. He began a haphazard drive against incumbent Sen. Javits, Republican, five days ago. Morgenthau recently accused Gov. Rockefeller of secretly planning new taxes. Another member of the Democratic ticket, Arthur Levitt, candidate for reelection as state Controller and a man in a position to know, promptly said he had never heard anything about it.

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President Kennedy, who knows that it will not lose New York in 1964, came in to lend a hand to the faltering fortunes of his party. His visit resulted mainly in a spate of pictures showing him shaking hands with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller,

Morgenthau's present rival, and very likely his own two years hence.

Professional politicians noted with despair that Morgenthau was effortlessly elbowed out of the Presidential car by a Congressman from the Bronx.

This week Morgenthau lost a couple of days of campaigning because he was home with a virus.

So the Democratic spotlight shifted again to Donovan, an extremely relaxed candidate who keeps saying he does not need the job.

Donovan engaged in a locally televised half-hour debate with Sen. Javits Tuesday night.

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Donovan kept saying that President Kennedy is "entitled" to a Democratic Senator from New York, that he needs Donovan's vote. Then he went on to destroy his own thesis by pointing out that Sen. Javits had voted 74 per cent of the time with the Administration.

Then he accused Sen. Javits of "wrecking" President Kennedy's medical care program, which came as news to many of his listeners. Sen. Javits explained that he had voted against a medical care bill proposed by the then Sen. Kennedy in 1960, but that last year he was co-sponsor of the Administration bill.

Sen. Javits' usually anxious smile became a little more genuine with every passage.

When it was over, and someone asked Sen. Javits, in his dressing room, who won, he said piously that "we will know on Nov. 6."

Someone asked Donovan the same question, as he sat in his dressing room a corridor away. He smiled in his jaunty fashion and said, "Is there a question?"